UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

CHAMBERS OF ANDRE M. DAVIS UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

October 22, 2002

United States of America v. \$1810 U.S. Currency

MEMORANDUM TO MR. DOWNING AND TO COUNSEL RE:

Civ. No. AMD 02-1901

U.S. COURTHOUSE 101 W. LOMBARD STREET BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21:201 (410) 962-0801 FAX (410) 962-0820

FILED ENTERED

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CLERR U.S. DISTRICT COUR.
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

Mr. Downing has requested that the court appoint a lawyer to represent him in this forfeiture action. Although the court has that authority, I am not persuaded that under the circumstances of this case an appointment of counsel is appropriate. Therefore the request for appointment of counsel is DENIED.

Mr. Downing has failed to answer the government's interrogatories and the government has filed a motion to compel Mr. Downing to answer the interrogatories. Mr. Downing apparently believes that he will be transported to court for a hearing. I do not expect that a hearing will be held in this case. Thus, if Mr. Downing seriously wishes to contest the government's case, he must answer the interrogatories as best he can, showing why he believes that the money seized from him at the time of his arrest may not be subject to forfeiture. If Mr. Downing fails to produce the evidence which he says he has on or before November 15, 2002, then an order awarding the funds to the government likely will be entered. (If Mr. Downey has only originals of his pay stubs, etc., then he may mail those to the government and the government will make copies and return the originals to Mr. Downing.)

I trust that this Memorandum explains this case to Mr. Downing and makes clear what he must do to contest the government's claim.

Despite the informal nature of this memorandum, it is an Order of Court and the clerk shall docket it as such.

Very truly yours,

Andre M. Davis

United States District Judge

AMD:tt

